

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ESTIMATING CARDINALITY WHEN
DATA SKEW IS PRESENT**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A cardinality estimator computes an estimated cardinality for a database column
using a formula that accounts for skew in the data in the column. The result is an
estimate of cardinality that more closely resembles the actual cardinality in the column.
The improved cardinality estimate may then be used to make better query optimizations.